

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USSS-00 SCCT-02 SY-04 OMB-01 OPR-02

AID-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SCA-01 IO-14 ARAE-00 /125 W

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O 301410Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1595

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 3995

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: HUTCHINSON KIDNAPPING; LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE OF THE SITUATION AT THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE AND RELATED EVENTS, AS REPORTED FROM 7:00 P.M., SEPT 29.

2. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED ON WHAT HAPPENED WHEN MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO BROUGHT FOOD AND SOFT DRINKS FOR THOSE INSIDE CONSULATE. REPORTED THERE HAD ALSO BEEN BOTTLE OF POTABLE WATER TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSULATE BUT THAT IT BROKE IN TRUNK OF CAR. REPORTED MONSIGNOR THEN WENT TO HOUSE NEXT DOOR AND GOT A PLASTIC CONTAINER TO PUT WATER IN. THEN, THE SOFT DRINKS, SANDWICHES AND A GALLON OF WATER WERE TAKEN INTO CONSULATE. REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR HURWITCH WAS ALSO THERE. SAID AMBASSADOR TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH MENDEZ VARGAS AT ONE POINT BUT DECLINED TO SAY WHAT THEY HAD TALKED ABOUT. ADDED THAT HE (THE AMBASSADOR) HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIND PEACEFUL MEANS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. COMMENTATOR THEN SAID THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE A FORMATION OF A FORMAL MEDIATION COMMITTEE LATER IN THE EVENING BECAUSE THE AMBASSADOR HAD TOLD THEM THAT HE, MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO, AND DR. PITTALUGA WERE GOING TO MEET TO DISCUSS MEANS TO OPEN

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FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS. IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, IT WAS REPORTED

IT HAD NEITHER BEEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED NOR DENIED THAT THE CITY EDITOR AND MANAGING EDITOR OF LA NOTICIA WERE BEING DEPORTED, BUT THE HOUR FOR THEIR POSSIBLE DEPORTATION ON AN IBERIA FLIGHT (6:30) P.M.) HAD ALREADY PASSED.

3. RADIO CRISTAL REPORTED ON ACTIVITIES SURROUNDING THIRD DELIVERY OF FOOD TO THOSE INSIDE CONSULATE. SAID THIS TIME THEY WERE RECEIVING MORE NUTRITIOUS FOOD, AND WERE ALSO RECEIVING CIGARETTES. ADDED THAT AMBASSADOR HURWITCH WAS AT THE CONSULATE WITH MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO AND THAT AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED BY BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS. RADIO CRISTAL RECORDED INTERVIEW, BUT MOST WAS IN ENGLISH. AT THE END OF INTERVIEW AMBASSADOR SPOKE IN SPANISH. RADIO CRISTAL COMMENTATOR LAMENTED THAT AMBASSADOR WAS TALKING ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH NORTH AMERICANS. REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR SAID THERE HAD BEEN CONVERSATIONS WITH RESPECT TO SITUATION, BUT THAT HE COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING SUBSTANTIVE.

4. RADIO CLARIN IN REPORT FROM AIRPORT SAID THE IBERIA FLIGHT HAD DEPARTED WITHOUT NEWSPAPERMEN FROM LA NOTICIA WHO, ACCORDING TO RUMORS, WERE TO BE DEPORTED. ADDED THAT DOMINICAN AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA, WHO HAD OFFERED HIMSELF AS HOSTAGE IN EXCHANGE FOR SIX HOSTAGES IN CONSULATE, HAD ARRIVED FROM KINGSTON.

5. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR HURWITCH HAD TALKED WITH THEM PERSONALLY AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WOULD BE REACHED. HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE REPORTED TO BE PLANNING TO MEET LATER IN THE NIGHT TO TAKE FIRST STEPS TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE GUERRILLAS.

6. RADIO CLARIN IN ITS SUMMARY REPORTED MENDEZ VARGAS WIFE AND HIS BROTHER WERE BOTH IN JAIL, DETAINED BY THE POLICE SINCE SUNDAY MORNING.

7. DURING LATE HOURS, AFTER AMBASSADOR HURWITCH, MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO, DR. PITTALUGA AND OTHERS HAD LEFT AREA OF CONSULATE, BOTH RADIO CLARIN AND RADIO CRISTAL CARRIED EXTENSIVE ACCOUNTS OF EVENTS OCCURRED SINCE NOON FRIDAY.

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8. RADIO CLARIN HAD INTERVIEW WITH CARMEN ARES, SISTER OF ONE OF THE HOSTAGES, WHO HAD JUST ARRIVED FROM VENEZUELA. SAID SHE HAD ARRIVED TO BE CLOSER TO HER SISTER AND THAT THEIR MOTHER WAS SADDENED BY SITUATION. ALSO SAID SHE WOULD ASK PRESIDENT BALAGUER TO INTERCED IN BEHALF OF HOSTAGES.

9. RADIO CLARIN, IN THEIR CONTINUING SUMMARY OF EVENTS, BROADCAST INTERVIEW WITH DR. PITTALUGA IN WHICH HE SAID HE IS ASKING THE

GUERRILLAS NOT TO HARM HOSTAGES AND THAT HE IS ASKING GOVERNMENT TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

10. RADIO CLARIN COMMENTED THAT THE ACTION OF THE GUERRILLAS WAS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. ADDED THE ACT WAS NOT OF HEROES, BUT OF PEOPLE WITH NO BACKBONE. POINTED OUT NO OTHER LEFTIST GROUP HAD ALIGNED ITSELF WITH THE 12TH OF JANUARY GROUP AND THAT THE GUERRILLAS COULD NOT EXPECT TO GAIN ANYTHING BY THIS ACT. REPORTED THAT DOMINICAN CHANCELLOR, NOW IN NEW YORK AT UNGA, SAID IN TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW THIS ACTION DOES NOT GAIN ANYTHING FOR TERRORISTS.

11. COVERAGE ON MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 30 BEGAN WITH RADIO CRISTAL'S REGULAR MORNING NEWS PROGRAM, "PANORAMA INFORMATIVO", WHICH GAVE STATEMENT FROM MENDEZ VARGAS SAYING NEWSPAPERMAN FROM LA NOTICIA HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE KIDNAPPING.

12. "PANORAMA INFORMATIVO" CONTINUED WITH SUMMARY OF EVENTS, STATING THAT AS OF 6:15 THERE HAD BEEN NO OFFICIAL WORD OR ACTION ON THE PART OF DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

13. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED AMBASSADOR HURWITCH HAD JUST LEFT AREA OF CONSULATE (ABOUT 6:15 A.M.) WITH HEAD OF SPECIAL POLICE.

14. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED MENDEZ VARGAS SAID HE WANTS ANSWER FROM GOVERNMENT WITHIN NEXT FEW HOURS AND IF THEY DO NOT GET AN ANSWER THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ALL HOSTAGES.

15. AS OF 6:30 A.M. THERE WERE CONTINUING SUMMARIES OF EVENTS, BUT NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS WERE REPORTED.
HURWITCH

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